



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

and of public spirit; in simple habits, in sacrifice, uprightness and self-sacrifice, in a certain soundness and moderation of judgment, which springs as much from character as from intellect. If you would form a wise judgment of the future of a nation, observe carefully whether these qualities are increasing or decaying. Observe especially what count for most in public life. Is character becoming of greater or less importance? Are the men who obtain the highest posts in the nation men of whom in private life and irrespective of party competent judges speak with genuine respect? Are they men of sincere convictions, sound judgment, consistent lives, indisputable integrity, or are they men who have won their positions by the arts of a demagogue or an intriguer; men of nimble tongues and not earnest beliefs—skillful above all things, in spreading their sails to each passing breeze of popularity? Such considerations as these are apt to be forgotten in the fierce excitement of a party contest; but if history has any meaning, it is such considerations that affect most vitally the permanent well-being of communities, and it is by observing this moral current that you can best cast the horoscope of a nation.”

Several of the essays are biographical, dealing with Carlyle, Madame de Stael, Peel, Lord Derby, and Henry Reeve; and one entitled *Formative Influences* is, in a way, autobiographical. The other essays deal with the Empire: its Value and Growth, Ireland in the Light of History, Old-Age Pensions, Israel Among the Nations, and Queen Victoria as a Moral Force. In this last not only the moral but the important political influence exerted by the Queen as a constitutional monarch is dwelt upon.

The Government of England. By A. LAWRENCE LOWELL. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1908. Two volumes. Pp. xv, 570; viii, 563.)

There was an obvious need for Mr. Lowell's *The Government of England*: and if inclusiveness, accuracy of statement, clear and sympathetic understanding of English political traditions, ideas and conditions, and also readableness in an eminent degree, make for a successful book, Mr. Lowell's two volumes must fill this obvious need for some years to come. There are internal evidences (as for instance, vol. ii, p. 363) that Mr. Lowell intended his work to serve for the Anglo-Saxon peoples on both sides of the Atlantic; and in this aim he has also been singularly success-

ful. There was no work on English governmental and ecclesiastical institutions and on the history, organization, and sphere of political parties in England on which Mr. Lowell could model his work. For England at no period in her modern history was there a book which aimed at being for its time as comprehensive and complete as that which Mr. Lowell has given us. In the last ten or fifteen years there has been no lack of treatises on political science as it is being developed in England. English, American, German, French and Austrian scholars have all contributed to this literature of English political science. American students have contributed to a remarkable extent and with admitted success. But all these recent contributions, from whatever source they have come, have been concerned with particular governmental or political institutions—the house of commons, the house of lords, the privy council or the machinery of local government—and until Mr. Lowell's work was published it was only in popular handbooks that any attempt had been made to survey the whole of the governmental and party activities of England. These books of lesser importance have had their usefulness for the constituencies of readers for which they were intended, and their usefulness will not come to an end with the publication of Mr. Lowell's great work. But for students of the working of the English system of government—central and municipal—Mr. Lowell's book must hereafter be the one to which they must turn first.

As has been remarked its inclusiveness is one of its outstanding characteristics. It is not risking much to say that this is its most outstanding characteristic; for if there had been chapters on the press and the land system—both necessary to an understanding of present day politics and political tendencies in England—it would have been impossible to name any English political institution or any phase of twentieth century political movement in England that is not adequately treated in Mr. Lowell's sixty-seven chapters and 1110 pages. London is the standpoint he has taken for nearly four-sevenths of the work. The crown, parliament and the cabinet, the various state departments, the civil service, the party system and its organization, the administration of justice, the colonies and their relations with the mother country, and the churches, established and free, have necessarily occupied most of Mr. Lowell's care and attention. But the book is remarkably well-balanced; as well as admirably planned and among the chapters which show Mr. Lowell at his best are those devoted to local government in the city of London, in the administrative county of London over which the county council, with headquarters in Spring Gardens exercises control, and in the larger

provincial cities. These chapters are typical of the scholarly care which Mr. Lowell has bestowed on his task; and in them also are evidences that Mr. Lowell has come into close and personal touch with the men whose work in municipal government he is describing. Moreover he has caught the spirit which actuates most of these men—the spirit of pride and conscientiousness in this sphere of political activity—which perhaps more than anything else explains the almost uniform success that attends the working of English municipal institutions.

EDWARD PORRITT.

The Housing Problem in England. Its Statistics, Legislation and Policy.

By ERNEST RITSON DEWSNUP, M.A. (Manchester: The University Press. 1907. Pp. vii, 321.)

Professor Dewsnap's book on the housing problem consists of three distinct parts, each of which is a valuable contribution to economic science. In Part i, Professor Dewsnap tries to give a clear and definite account of the evil with which authorities in England are called upon to cope. Avoiding all special pleading and all evidence of the sensational kind which is apt to give a false idea of the extent and intensity of the evil of overcrowding, he does not on the other hand fall into the error of minimizing the evil. By statistical tables, compiled chiefly from the census returns, he establishes the fact that overcrowding is not so stupendous a problem as has been imagined, and that of recent years the evil has been growing less. The proportion of population affected varies in different boroughs from little more than half of 1 per cent in Bournemouth, to 34.8 per cent in Gateshead; but out of the 84 largest boroughs in England 42 had less than 5 per cent of the population living under conditions of overcrowding, *i. e.*, more than two to a room. Of the remaining 42, 20 had between 5 and 10 per cent; 14 between 10 and 15 per cent; two between 15 and 20 per cent; one between 20 and 25 per cent, and 5 between 30 and 35 per cent. The variation in overcrowding in towns of a similar character is very remarkable. Plymouth, for example, has 20.19 per cent of its population overcrowded; while Portsmouth has 1.19, and to take an example from industrial England, of the two Lancashire towns of Warrington and Wigan, Wigan has 13.38 Warrington only 3.8 per cent. Professor Dewsnap has not undertaken to explain the causes of these divergences. It would be an interesting study, and would do much to enable the public to judge of the efficacy of the remedies which Professor Dewsnap advocates, to inquire into